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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/614,321	07/07/2003	Arlo Aude	11461.00.0173	7354
23418	7590	08/09/2004	EXAMINER	
VEDDER PRICE KAUFMAN & KAMMHOLZ 222 N. LASALLE STREET CHICAGO, IL 60601			MOTTOLA, STEVEN J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2817	

DATE MAILED: 08/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/614,321	<b>Applicant(s)</b> AUDE, ARLO	
	<b>Examiner</b> Steven J. Mottola	<b>Art Unit</b> 2817	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 and 19 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)            |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____  |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 11 & 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Martin et al.

Refer to detail fig. 2 of Martin et al. A power supply B(+)<sub>1</sub>,B(-) is supplied to an input differential stage 3 and may be read as the first power supply voltage claimed while stage 3 is read as the first amplifier means or circuitry claimed as it receives an input differential signal IPS<sub>1</sub>,IPS<sub>2</sub> and generates an intermediate differential signal 1/A, 1/A comp. A power supply circuit 6 generates another set of supply voltages B(+)<sub>2</sub>,B(-)<sub>2</sub> from the first voltage. Although a 1:1 transformer is used in the supply circuit 6, the drop across diodes D<sub>2</sub>,D<sub>3</sub> will ensure that the B<sub>2</sub> supply voltage is less than B<sub>1</sub> and thus the B<sub>2</sub> supply may be read as the second power supply voltage claimed. The B<sub>2</sub> supply voltage is supplied to an output differential amplifier stage 5 that generates an output differential signal OUT<sub>+</sub>,OUT<sub>-</sub> from the intermediate differential signal. Thus stage 5 may be read as the second amplifier means or circuitry claimed. Since this is an audio output amplifier, it would be logical to assume it draws more current than the input stage 3.

Claims 12-17 & 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

Claims 1 & 9 specify a voltage follower not shown by Martin et al., and claim 15 implies the same; the output magnitude of the output stage 5 of Martin et al. would presumably be greater than the signal fed to it as it is used as an audio output amplifier. The current source circuitry of claims 12-14 is not shown by Martin et al. It would be unlikely that the common mode voltages of the stages would differ by a predetermined amount (claim 16) or be made equal (claim 19) due to the presence of isolation network 4 between the amplifier stages.

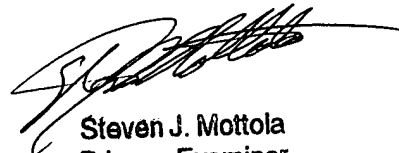
The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Ausserlechner and Sevenhans et al. each disclose cascaded amplifier stages using different supplies but in each case the output stage uses a higher supply voltage.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven J. Mottola whose telephone number is 571-272-1766. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 8 to 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert J. Pascal, can be reached on 571-272-1769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Steven J. Mottola  
Primary Examiner